

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A propagated signal, comprising:

an element of data contained within a time period of said propagated signal, said time period divided into a group of time slots; and

multiple pulses distributed in a predetermined manner among said time slots by pulse group keying to encode said data.

2. The propagated signal as recited in Claim 1 wherein said data is ascertainable by mapping.

3. The propagated signal as recited in Claim 1 wherein said time slots in said group are adjacent.

4. The propagated signal as recited in Claim 1 wherein said time slots in said group are not adjacent.

5. The propagated signal as recited in Claim 1 wherein said time slots have differing characteristics.

6. The propagated signal as recited in Claim 1 wherein said group encodes data that is more than fifteen bits long.

7. The propagated signal as recited in Claim 1 wherein said  
2 element of data is selected from the group consisting of:

3 a header;

4 an error detection message;

5 a synchronization element; and

6 a data message.

8. The propagated signal as recited in Claim 1 further  
2 comprising a plurality of said time periods.

9. The propagated signal as recited in Claim 8 wherein said  
2 groups have differing numbers of multiple pulses.

10. The propagated signal as recited in Claim 8 wherein said  
2 number of time slots vary in said time periods.

11. A method of propagating a signal, comprising:

2 forming an element of data within a time period of said  
3 signal, said time period divided into a group of time slots; and  
4 distributing multiple pulses in a predetermined manner among  
5 said time slots by pulse group keying to encode said data.

12. The method as recited in Claim 11 wherein said data is  
2 ascertainable by mapping.

13. The method as recited in Claim 11 wherein said time slots  
2 in said group are adjacent.

14. The method as recited in Claim 11 wherein said time slots  
2 in said group are not adjacent.

15. The method as recited in Claim 11 wherein said time slots  
2 have differing characteristics.

16. The method as recited in Claim 11 wherein said group  
2 encodes data that is more than fifteen bits long.

17. The method as recited in Claim 11 wherein said element of  
2 data is selected from the group consisting of  
3 a header;

4 an error detection message;  
5 a synchronization element; and  
6 a data message.

18. The method as recited in Claim 11 further comprising  
2 designating a plurality of said time periods.

19. The method as recited in Claim 18 wherein said groups  
2 have differing numbers of multiple pulses.

20. The method as recited in Claim 18 wherein said number of  
2 time slots vary in said time periods.